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SUBJECT: THIRD ANNUAL INCIDENTS AT SEA REVIEW RESULTS

REF: STATE 111237

SUMMARY: THE THIRD ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE US-USSR
INCIDENTS AT SEA AGREEMENT WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON
MAY 19-23. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE AGREEMENT IS
WORKING, AND THEREFORE NO CHANGES WERE MADE. THE
AGREEMENT WAS RENEWED FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS. END
SUMMARY.

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1. RESULTS OF INCSEA ANNUAL REVIEW ARE FORWARDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C. FROM MAY 19-23. DURING THIS MEETING THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED: (1) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OF BOTH SIDES, AND THE PRACTICE OF ANNOUNCING NOTICES TO MARINERS (INCLUDED AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION). (2) REVIEW OF THE USE OF THE SPECIAL SIGNALS BY SHIPS OF BOTH PARTIES. (3) DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FIXED SEPARATION DISTANCES BETWEEN OPERATING SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE PARTIES. (4) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT.

(5) EXTENSION OF THE ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO OPERATIONS OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHEN APPROACHING CIVIL AIRCRAFT. (6) AGREEMENT ON THE PLACE AND DATE FOR CONDUCTING THE NEXT MEETING.

2. BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT:

(A) THE AGREEMENT IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED, AS INDICATED BY THE CONTINUED REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENTS AT SEA.

(B) BOTH SIDES MUST CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE TO ALL COMMANDERS THE NECESSITY TO ADHERE TO SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

(C) THE AGREEMENT IS RENEWED WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION FOR THREE MORE YEARS.

(D) THE US WOULD REVIEW PARA 46 AND 48 OF US NOTICE TO MARINERS 1/75 (NOTAMS) (DEALING WITH TOWING SUBMERGED OBJECTS ON THE HIGH SEAS BY DESTROYERS, AND ILLUMINATION PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF VESSELS AT NIGHT) TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NOTAMS SHOULD BE AMENDED OR CANCELLED. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONTINUE TO AVOID ACTIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS WHICH ARE CONTRADICTORY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGH SEAS AND WHICH ARE CONTRADICTORY TO THE SPIRIT AND TERMS OF AGREEMENT.

(E) THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FIXED SEPARATION DISTANCES AS CRITERIA FOR IMPROVING THE OPERATIONAL SAFETY OF SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE PARTIES SHOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER AND OPINIONS EXCHANGED NEXT YEAR. EACH SIDE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO ISSUE GUIDANCE TO ALL AIRCRAFT

COMMANDERS TO GIVE DUE REGARD TO SUCH FACTORS AS WEATHER, SPEED OF FLIGHT, MANEUVERABILITY OF AIRCRAFT, ETC., WHEN APPROACHING SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT OF THE OTHER SIDE.

(F) THE SPECIAL SIGNALS AID IN REDUCING THE RISK OF COLLISION AND DANGEROUS SITUATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET NAVY UNITS AND SHIPS, AND CONTINUED AND TIMELY USE OF THEM SHOULD BE MADE. USE OF THEM WILL BE EMPHASIZED TO ALL COMMANDERS.

(G) THE NAVY TO NAVY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT IS WORKING SATISFACTORILY.

(H) THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE AGREEMENT TO CONTROL THE ACTIONS OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT TOWARD NON-MILITARY AIR-

CRAFT SHOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER AND REPORTED UPON AT NEXT YEAR'S MEETING.

3. THE SOVIET DELEGATION INVITED THE US DELEGATION TO MEET IN MOSCOW IN MAY 1976. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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